occupied by about 40 or 50 families of the depressed classes. Advances should be made by Government to the contractor to cultivate the land, the labour being supplied by the families settled on it and paid for at fixed rates. After recovering from the value of the produce a portion of the amount advanced by Government and allowing a certain percentage to the contractor for his trouble, the balance should be invested in the Savings Banks in the names of the families in proportion to the labour supplied by them. Thus, by the time the amount advanced by Government was completely recovered, the families settled on the land would have had a fund with which to cultivate it. The land should then be divided among the families and assigned to them. The system would work excellently in Travancore under the supervision of the Director of Agriculture and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

The Member then said that, in order to encourage the spread of education among the depressed classes, the literate among them should be employed in the Forest, Anchal, Agricultural and other Departments, and night schools should also be opened in large numbers where magic lantern lectures should be given on useful subjects. Non-attendance in schools should be penalised in the case of boys below twelve or fifteen. The boys should also be given books free of cost. The half-fee concession now allowed was not sufficient. The fees should be still further reduced.

It was high time that the rates of wages allowed to coolies and their hours of work were regulated. The small wages prevailing in the State led to the emigration of a large number of labourers every year.

The Sanitary Department should take special efforts to visit frequently the places inhabited by them and impress on them the need for cleanliness.

Further, they should be allowed equal rights of citizenship with the higher classes and those among them who had the necessary qualifications should be freely appointed in the Revenue and Military Departments.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

151. Desirability of passing a rule requiring Government Officers to live and camp in places accessible to all cllasses of people.

Mr. P. I. Joseph (Member, T. I. C., Vaikom) spoke at length about the difficulties caused to Ezhavas and other communities by the caste Hindu officers living in places to which they had no access, and camping near temples. He knew that some officers like Tahsildars and Magistrates, who ought to be always accessible to the people, were living in such inconvenient quarters at present.

All public institutions also should be open to all classes of citizens. But several schools, satroms, &c., were situated in inaccessible localities.

The Member requested that immediate steps be taken to remove those grievances.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

152. Needs of the Town of Padmanabhapuram.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Padmanabhapuram) said that Padmanabhapuram which was once the capital of the State was dwindling in importance. The main reason was the removal of the local public offices to other places in the neighbourhood. He requested that in view to maintain the importance of the town, the Munsiff's court might be re-transferred to Padmanabhapuram from Thackalay. There was a public tank called the Perampancode tank. The Member prayed that it might be repaired at Government cost as the T. I. C. was too poor to undertake the work.

He also requested that the Medical Officer of the place might be made a member of the local Town Improvement Committee in the place of the Sub-Registrar.

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